

By His Excellency Thomas Pownall, Esq; captain-general and governor in chief in and over His Majesty's province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England, and vice-admiral of the same. A brief [regarding the Boston fire of March 20, 1760 and requesting contributions for the distress of the people] Given at the Council-chamber in Boston the twenty-fourth day of March, 1760 . Boston

By His EXCELLENCY THOMAS POWNALL, Esq; Captain-General and Governor in Chief, in and over His Majesty's Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay* in *New England*, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

A BRIEF.

IT having pleased Almighty GOD to permit a Fire to break out in the Town of *Boston*, on the 20th Instant, and to rage in such manner as to elude all Means for suppressing the same, until it had in a few Hours destroyed (according to the best Information that can be obtained in the in the present Confusion) One Hundred and seventy-four Dwelling-Houses, and as many Warehouses, Shops and other Buildings; the Loss whereof, with the Furniture and Goods therein, amount, at a moderate Computation, to *One Hundred Thousand Pounds Sterling*; and Two Hundred and Twenty Families are turned out of Doors, the greatest Part of whom are by this Misfortune so reduced as to be rendered incapable of substituting themselves, and stand in need of immediate Relief:

THE two Houses having, upon my Recommendation, taken these calamitous Circumstances into Consideration, and judging the Distress to be so great and extensive as to require the Charity of all well disposed Persons to mitigate and relieve the same, have desired me to send BRIEFS throughout the Province, strongly recommending the unhappy Case of these poor People to the Inhabitants, and calling upon them for a general Contribution for their Relief:

I DO hereby therefore most earnestly recommend it to all, to express their Christian Benevolence on this Occasion, contributing in Proportion to the Means with which GOD has blessed them, and to the Distresses of these worthy Objects of their Charity; and do further desire, That what may be collected on this Occasion may be remitted to the Select-Men and Overseers of the Poor of the Town of *Boston*, to be by them distributed among the Sufferers, as they in their Discretion shall judge proper.

And I do require the Ministers of the several Churches and Parishes within this Province to read or cause to be read this Brief to their respective Congregations, on the First Lord's-Day after they receive the same, or on the Day appointed for a General Fast the Third of *April* next, as they shall judge most convenient.

GIVEN at the Council-Chamber in Boston the Twenty-fourth Day of March, 1760, in the Thirty-third Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Second, by the Grace of GOD, of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c.

By His Excellency's Command, A. Oliver, Secr'y.

T. Pownall.

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M r. Storer at Watertown